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**AN AID TO TEXAS CITIES AND TOWNS.**

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A bureau of Municipal Research and Reference has been established at the University of Texas. This bureau will be under the directorship of Prof. Herman G. James, who teaches the courses in Municipal Government at the University of Texas. The bureau is intended primarily as an aid to the cities of the State in solving their local municipal problems. The work of the bureau will consist in the collection of information on all matters of local concern, not only from cities in this State and country but from leading municipalities abroad also, which information will then be available for the authorities of any city in the State. For example, if a city wants to undertake paving, the bureau will have information available with regard to the relative cost, durability, and general efficiency of various kinds of pavements. The bureau will have data with regard to all the different departments of municipal government. In short, the bureau will be a clearing house of information on municipal concerns of whatever nature open for the asking to all municipalities of the State.

What an advantage this will be to the cities of Texas is immediately apparent, for while they now grope largely in the dark on many of these questions, or are compelled to ask information of a large number of different sources, the bureau will furnish a central organ of experience and information from which each city can draw what it needs with a minimum expenditure of time and energy.

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The University of Texas Library has seventy-six thousand catalogued volumes. Its reading room has a capacity for two hundred students working at the same time. Due to the rapid increase of enrollment it has been found necessary to order fifty additional chairs, for many times during the past session students were unable to secure places in the reading room due to its congested condition.

Rural School Education Week will be held at the University of Texas during the week beginning July 14th. This week is set aside for the special attention of all persons interested in the development of rural education in Texas. It is the desire that the superintendents, trustees, teachers, and patrons of rural schools throughout the State should attend, and by means of mutual discussion and hearing of the opinions of the experts who have been gathered together for this purpose that the rural schools in the various communities should better thereby. Several series of lectures, conferences, and round tables, all of which will be devoted to the investigation and discussion of problems related to rural schools will be held. Mr. O. J. Kern, Supt. Winnebago County, Ill., will deliver three series of lectures. State Supt. F. M. Bralley and Prof. W. S. Sutton, Dean of the Department of Education of the University, will have charge of the round tables. Supt. J. F. Kimball of Temple, who is also president of the State Teachers' Association, and Supt. S. M. N. Marrs of Terrell, County Superintendents T. C. Williams of Haskell County and J. S. Morgan of Bell County; Prof. S. C. Wilson of Sam Houston Normal, and Messrs. T. H. Shelby and E. V. White of the State Department of Education, as well as other experienced, well-informed school men in Texas, will contribute to the program of the Week. In order that county superintendents and other visitors may be conveniently located it has been arranged so that they may have rooms at the University Hall and meals at the Cafeteria. Both of these places are on the campus and are near the hall where the lectures will be given.

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The 1912-13 catalogue of the University of Texas, including the Medical Department, has just been issued from the press. It is an imposing volume of five hundred and fifty-four pages. This constitutes the most imposing catalogue that has even been issued by the University. The catalogue gives all the rules and regulations of the University, and the various courses in the different departments and schools are carefully outlined. Copies of the catalogue may be obtained by addressing the Registrar, University, Austin, Texas.

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Four deserving Texas girls with the desire to go to the University of Texas will have that desire fulfilled through the awarding of four scholarships secured by Hon. Cullen F. Thomas of Dallas. The selection was made by a committee composed of Mrs. Helen M. Kirby, Dean of Women; Prof. E. C. Barker, and Secretary John A. Lomax of the University. The scholarships were awarded to Misses Lota Smith, Weatherford; Olive Swenson, Smithville; Fannie H. Daniels, Austin, and Braddie Garner, Del Rio. These young women will enter the University next session. The committee have another scholarship to award to some deserving boy who, without help, could not attend the University.

## GROUP STUDY FOR THE PEOPLE.

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The Department of Extension of the University of Texas has just entered upon a new phase of work in the division of correspondence instruction. This new field of work will be known as group study courses. This plan originated at the University of Texas, and it is the only university in the country giving similar opportunities to groups gathered together for study. The plan contemplated is to offer to various groups of persons under the direction of a university professor or lecturer certain definite programs for a year's reading or study. The primary object of these courses will be to give instruction rather than entertainment, although this feature will not be neglected. Each group will have a leader who is to conduct the correspondence with the lecturer, and all questions or difficulties that may arise during the course may be cleared up by correspondence with the university professor. In addition to a syllabus and program the University Extension Department will send out a small traveling library of general reference books on each of the topics. This library will be loaned to the club free during the entire progress of the course. At some time during the progress of the course the university professor will visit the group and give one or two lectures as conditions may warrant. The nature of these lectures will be determined by the character of the topics and by the wishes of the local group and the lecturer. Usually there will be one lecturer to the group alone and one to the group and their invited friends or to the general public, as the circumstances may warrant. In case of the public lecture, if the group desires to make a small admission charge to cover the expenses of the course, the University will send out posters, newspaper write-ups, tickets, etc., for local advertising purposes. The work of these courses is intended for all sorts of literary, debating, mothers' clubs, high school faculties, teachers' clubs, young people's societies, Y. M. C. A.'s, organizations of business men, commercial clubs, civic clubs, labor unions, farmers' institutes, and the like. Any group of not less than five persons may form a club and select a leader in order to make application for one of these group study courses. A fee of \$30 is charged for the course, but the University will pay the traveling expenses to the lecturer, provide the traveling library, and prepare advertising material for the public lecture. A fee of \$5 will be charged for an outlined program alone, and \$10 for the program and the traveling library. However, in almost every case it will be much more desirable for the club to include the lecturer feature in these

The Board of Regents of the University of Texas at a recent meeting provided for the rendering of a larger assistance to the high schools of the State. Within the last five years the subjects of manual training, domestic economy, and agriculture have been placed in many high schools. The greatest impediment to the development of the vocational subjects has been the dearth of properly trained teachers. The Board of Regents believes that a distinct service is demanded in the better preparation of teachers for vocational subjects, and is aiding the schools in developing suitable courses in these subjects. With this object in view, provisions have been made for the employment of high school visitors who will give special attention to the development of these several subjects. The position of Visitor of Schools in Manual Training has been filled by the selection of Mr. O. A. Hanszen, who has served as manual training teacher and director in the city schools of both Austin and Dallas. Mr. Hanszen is thoroughly qualified to render a great service to the schools of the State. The University accredits manual training, domestic economy, and agriculture for admission to the freshman class. Twelve other colleges in Texas have indicated their intention to use the list of accredited schools prepared by the State University.

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Dr. T. R. Sampson, President of the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, announces that as a result of an investigation conducted by him as to the number of graduates of the University of Texas who are engaged in the ministry, that there are thirty-two engaged in active work in the ministry, the Presbyterians leading with thirteen; the Methodists, ten; Episcopalians, five; and the Baptists, four. Dr. Sampson has not completed his investigation as to the other denominations, and the number as given does not include quite a number of former students of the University who are not recipients of degrees.

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Dr. Wingo Williams of Fort Worth, who had only been graduated from the University of Texas Medical Department three weeks, died recently from scarlet fever, which he contracted in the Philadelphia Municipal Hospital for contagious diseases. Dr. Williams went directly to the hospital upon his graduation from the University. He was serving as an interne in the hospital where he died. The young doctor died while doing his duty. He was one of the most promising of the recent graduates of the Medical Department.

group study courses. The topics already announced afford a wide variety of subjects and are announced in a recent bulletin. If any group is interested in any topic not mentioned in the list given in the bulletin, the Department will be glad to correspond with them in regard to finding a leader and preparing a program and a traveling library for such a topic. For the bulletin or any information on any of the topics, clubs or individuals should write to Dr. L. W. Payne, Jr., head of the Correspondence Division, Department of Extension, University of Texas. The bulletin will be sent upon request.

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The University of Texas Extension Department will have a director of Interscholastic Athletics and Debating. A. J. Robinson, a former student of the University, will enter upon the position at the beginning of the coming session. Mr. Robinson has taught and coached in different high schools and academies throughout the State; he is an experienced coach and player in a large number of athletic activities. His duty will be to visit the high schools and academies of the State and assist them in the organization of proper athletics and in the formation of debating and oratorical districts. He will conduct all district contests in debating, oratory, and track. This office was created through the enormous interest manifested by the intermediate schools of the State in athletic sport and oratory. At the spring interscholastic track meet recently held at the University of Texas at Austin over four hundred high school and academy students were present, two hundred and forty being on the field at one time, thus marking it as the largest athletic meet ever held on a field in the South. Not only were the city schools well represented, but many small towns were represented by capable teams who made an admirable showing in the meet.

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Requests have been sent out to superintendents of public schools in the State for names of deserving boys who desire a chance to go to the University of Texas for one year. It is hoped that the most deserving boy in the State can be found in order that he may be awarded the \$250 scholarship awarded by Hon. Cullen F. Thomas of Dallas. The award will be made to some boy who by no other means could gain a University education.